DREW
Major in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary program which examines: the diversity of women's and men's experiences as they are shaped by gender, class, race/ethnicity, sexuality, age, ability, social location, and cultural and national identity and the theoretical and methodological insights of feminist thought and gender scholarship in many fields. The program offers a major and a minor.

Requirements for the Major:
All students majoring in women's and gender studies must complete the following schedule of courses:

WGST 101/ Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (4 credits)
WGST 201/ Transnational Feminisms (4 credits)
History of Feminist Thought (4 credits):
- WGST 304/Sexuality and Gender in Victorian Literature and Culture
- WGST 301/Filming American Feminisms
- WGST/ARTH 317 Gender, Sexuality, and Victorian Visual Culture
- WGST/HIST 370 History of Sexuality

WGST 310/ Contemporary Feminist Theory and Methodology (4 credits)
WGST 400/ WGST Capstone (4)

Five additional intermediate and upper level courses (20 credits), at least 3 of which are upper level, chosen from among a list of departmental and interdisciplinary courses focused on women and gender. Majors should consult the list published each semester by the Women's and Gender Studies Program for additional courses that may be applied to the major. Other courses may be applied to the major if they are proposed to and approved by the Women's and Gender Studies Committee.

Practicum (4 credits): Selected in consultation with the advisor and to be planned as experience/praxis linked to an aspect of the student's major. The practicum requirement may be filled by a 4-credit internship, two 2-credit internships, a relevant community-based learning course, or a course from the Social Impact semester or an approved course from another off-campus semester. Other relevant immersive experiences may be proposed to the WGST committee to fulfill the practicum.

Core Courses:

WGST 101/ Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (4)
An interdisciplinary course designed to lay the groundwork for the women's and gender studies major and minor. Focused principally on the lives and experience of U.S. women, the course has several objectives: first, to consider some fundamental questions (What is a woman? What is gender? What is sex? How does culture construct gender and gender difference? How do gender, race, class, ethnicity and sexual orientation intersect and interact?); second, to think about individual women's lives using these questions; and third, to introduce analytical and critical concepts and approaches for understanding particular women's lives within larger social, political and cultural structures and to introduce the skills that form the basis of further work in women's studies. Required for Women's and Gender Studies majors and minors.

WGST 201/ Transnational Feminisms (4)
An interdisciplinary course intended to follow WGST 12, this course examines women's movements internationally and globally. It explores the variations in constructions of sex, gender and gender difference as well as the range of feminisms and women's movements that have emerged from these differing cultural, economic and political situations. Such topics as women and development, the sexual division of labor, health, the environment, the international traffic in women and human rights may be among those explored in the course. Equivalent to PSCI 241. Offered fall semester annually.

WGST 301/ Filming American Feminisms (4)
Through examination of documentary and fiction films, this course will explore the development of thinking about women, gender, and feminism in the United States after 1900. We'll think simultaneously about the evolution of feminist thought in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and about how film has engaged with, represented, supported, disseminated, and critiqued those developing ideas. Readings in feminist theory of the period will be put in dialogue with a wide range of films from silents to Hollywood blockbusters to independents and documentaries made with explicitly feminist purposes. Equivalent to ENGL 301 Offered fall semester in alternate years.

WGST 304/ Sexuality and Gender in 19th Century Literature and Culture (4)
Through reading of nineteenth-century novels, poetry, prose, theoretical texts, and visual images, this course will explore the complex and shifting understandings of gender and sexuality in the period. Among the topics considered will be the construction of heterosexuality and heterosexual marriage; marriage resistance and the 'new women'; constructions of dominant and deviant masculinities and femininities; homosocial and homosexual love and homosexual panics; prostitution and the disciplining of female sexuality, suffrage and the campaigns for women's autonomy; as well as the codes, narratives, and images through which these are represented. The course will also ask how gender and sexuality have been deployed by 20th/ 21st century critics as lenses for reading the literature and culture of this period and how those approaches have shifted over time in dialogue with other critical approaches. Equivalent to ENGL 304

WGST 317/Sexuality, Gender and Victorian Visual Culture (4)
Examines how nineteenth-century British artists, critics, collectors, and general audiences both responded to and had an impact on changing conventions and representations of gender and sexuality during the period. Students will become acquainted with various styles and movements in British art, such a s Pre-Raphaelitism. Topics include: the effects of nineteenth-century feminism on the visual arts, the role of women artists and critics in Victorian art institutions such as the Royal Academy, the representation of transgressive sexualities, gender, and urban space, and the relationship between female literary characters and Victorian women. Equivalent to ARTH 317.

WGST 370/ History of Sexuality (4)
Explores some of the major themes and milestones in the modern history of sexuality in the United States and Europe, focusing special attention on the role of medicine in these developments. Following a theoretical introduction to the field, students may inspect, among other topics, the "invention" of homosexuality and the regulation of prostitution; the impact of thinkers like Krafft-Ebbing, Freud, and Kinsey; and such recent controversies as the new diagnosis of sex addiction and the search for a gay gene. Special emphasis may be placed on evaluating the role of class, race, gender, and ethnicity upon constructions of sexuality. In addition to a substantial research paper, students will be required to write three shorter response papers and deliver class presentations based upon their readings. Equivalent to HIST 370.

WGST 310/ Contemporary Feminist Theory and Methodology (4)
An interdisciplinary course focused on contemporary feminist theory. The objectives of the course are: first, to explore the broad range of theories which make up the body of contemporary scholarship referred to as "feminist theory"; second, to examine feminist critiques and innovations in methodologies in many fields; and third, to consider some of the fundamental questions these theories raise about the origins of gender difference, the nature and origins of patriarchy, the intersections between gender, race, class, sexuality and nationality as categories of analysis and bases of oppression or empowerment. Prerequisite: WGST 12. Signature required for registration. Offered alternate years in the fall semester.

WGST 400/ WGST Capstone (4)
An independent investigation at an advanced level of a topic, preferably interdisciplinary, chosen in consultation with the instructor.. The student designs the capstone project so that it draws on the work they have completed for the major both in core and cross-listed courses. Oral and written work.